AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 23 to read:

As described above, it requires a long time to measure each of the plurality of samples, so in the plurality of samples, it is necessary to keep the moisture percentage from being changed for a long time by preventing evaporation of moisture until the measurement is started. Accordingly, in order to maintain and manage such moisture percentage, the maintenance of measurement environment becomes large-scale. Further, the preliminary test becomes complicated, and the complicated work is one main cause of wrong measurement of moisture percentage.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 13 to read:

According to the constitution of aspect 5, in the constitution of aspect 4, in the heating time calculation step, on the basis of the measurement accuracy set by an operator, the time function based on the parameter is calculated, thereby calculating the time required for heating, so that the heating time that is enough to satisfy the measurement accuracy can be found.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 19 to read:

According to the constitution of aspect 6, in the constitution of aspect 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, the time function is a natural logarithm, so that the heating temperature, the heating time and the like can be found by approximating the change of moisture percentage due to heating with satisfactory accuracy.

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Amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 7 to read:

According to the constitution of aspect 8, in the constitution of aspect 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7, the method has the step of informing an operator of the processing result, whereby the thus selected measurement condition can be ~~informed~~ relayed to the operator so as to assist the operator's setting of the measurement condition.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 5 to read:

Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing a moisture meter according to the mode for carrying out the invention. In a moisture meter 1, a sample pan 2 is removably held to place a sample. A load sensor 3 outputs a load detection signal, the signal level of which varies according to the load of the sample pan 2. An analog- to-digital converter (A/D) 4 ~~analog-to-digital~~ converts the load detection signal, and the load detection data is output to an arithmetic processing part 5. Thus, the arithmetic processing part 5 is adapted to detect the mass of a sample placed on the sample pan 2 and further the change of the mass.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 25 to read:

A display part 10 is formed by a liquid crystal display panel or the like to display a user's various settings and measurement results. An interface 11 outputs the measurement results and the like to an external device such as a personal computer according to the control of the arithmetic processing part 5 and also outputs data of various settings in the external device to the arithmetic processing part 5. A timer 12 counts the current time, and outputs the count result to the arithmetic processing part 5. A memory 13 constitutes a work area of the arithmetic part 5 and records the

measurement results and the like. A key switch part 14 is formed by a pressing operating element required for the operation of the moisture meter 1 to thereby ~~inform~~ relay various ~~operation~~ operations of the user to the arithmetic processing part 5.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 14 to read:

The arithmetic processing part 5 is a computer for controlling the operation of the whole moisture meter 1, and performs the processing such as preliminary tests and actual measurements according to the operation of the user ~~informed by~~ via the key switch part 14 and the control of the external device.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 19 to read:

The arithmetic processing part 5 performs the procedure shown in Fig. 1 in the processing of the preliminary tests, thereby instructing the heating condition provided for the actual measurement, the weight of the sample and the like to the user. That is, when the user designates the start of the preliminary test, the transition from the step SP1 to the step SP2 occurs in the arithmetic processing part 5, and the arithmetic processing part displays a settable measurement accuracy on the display part 10, and receives the input of measurement accuracy by detecting the operation of the key switch part 14 corresponding to the display.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 5 to read:

Subsequently, in the arithmetic processing part 5, the transition to the step SP3 occurs, and it performs arithmetic processing which has been calculated heretofore by

an operator from the measurement accuracy of moisture percentage input by the user to thereby calculate the required mass of the sample and display the same on the display part 10. Thus, the arithmetic processing part 5 ~~informs~~ determines the necessary mass of the sample.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 12 to read:

Subsequently, in the arithmetic processing part 5, the transition to the step SP4 occurs to start ~~to heat~~ heating the sample at a reference temperature of h0 degrees (e.g. 100 degrees) on low temperature side under the control of the temperature control part 7. Further, the arithmetic processing part 5 stores the heating start time, and then causes the transition to the step SP4 to be on standby for the lapse of designated time after the start of heating and measure the moisture percentage. In this measurement, after the lapse of time enough that the temperature of the sample rises after the start of heating, measurement is performed at the different times at least three times in total, and the moisture percentage is calculated at each measurement time.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 25, line 2 to read:

When the heating time is thus calculated, the arithmetic processing time 5 displays the sample quantity calculated in the step SP3, the heating temperature calculated in the step SP14 and the heating time calculated in the step SP15 on the display part 10, thereby ~~informing~~ relaying the processing result to the operator. After that, in the arithmetic processing part 5, the transition to the step SP16 occurs to end the procedure.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 25, line 9 to read:

In this procedure, when the operator directs the start of a test according to the thus ~~informed~~ determined test condition, or when the operator directs the start of the test after setting the test condition with reference to the thus ~~informed~~ determined test condition by the operator, the arithmetic processing part 5 starts to heat the sample according to the test conditions depending on the operator's directions to monitor the moisture percentage, and ends the test in the lapse of the heating time. Further, the moisture percentage at the moment of this end is informed to the operator.